FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING, TWENTY SECOND YEAR

7.30pm, Monday 24 November 1997, at 112 Relugas Road, Edinburgh

Present: Graeme Ackland, Steve Ambler, John Barrow, Paul Caban, Colin Eades, Colin Inverarity, Barry Owen.

Apologies for absence were received from Darina Cunnane.

1 Minutes of last Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of 29 September 1997 were approved.

2 Secretary's Report

Notification had been received from BOF regarding a new fee structure agreed with the Forestry Commission.

3 Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that the current position for the Year shows a deficit of approx. £268. He had prepared a statement for the SOA Relays for the LBOA's benefit; this event showed a net surplus of £70 (although, as Graeme pointed out, the statement ought to stress that BOF and SOA levies account for £884).

There was some discussion of the finances for the Glenearn & Berryknowe event, in particular on how to assess the value of the maps. The total cost of production of the map was £2135. It was agreed to value each map at £1, and consequently to include an expenditure element of approx. £500 for the maps used by the event. With most other bills paid, this left approx. £500 of net income, from which the Planner's expenses would need to be met.

Anthony Squire had written, giving details of his representative tours over the Summer, and listing the associated expenses. He expressed gratitude for any assistance the Club could offer. After discussion, it was agreed to adopt the usual precedent (i.e. £50, or half, whichever is the lesser amount), and offer £50.

ACTION: Steve

4 Equipment

The new Club tent had its first outing at SG7, and performed well, keeping the Finish officials well protected.

Paul had regained possession of the Club's trestles, after Scotlandsgaloppen 7 and Euromeeting.

It was noted that, although Darina was in possession of the Club watch, it was not functioning properly.

5 Mapping

The cost of printing the map of Glenearn & Berryknowe came to approx. £600.

Colin would arrange for the existing map of Colinton Dell to be scanned, to serve as a base map for updating purposes.

There was no further word on the future of Archerfield. Paul was concerned that there was no plan of the area showing which parts were the responsibility of which landowners (although some educated guesses could be made).

6 Events

6.1 CompassSport Cup 1997

It was noted that ESOC had attended the Final, but had not won through to the trophy.

6.2 CompassSport Cup 1998

The Club had been drawn against ELO in the first round. Trina Rogerson had been in touch regarding the playing of the tie, and had suggested our own Lothian O-League event at Archerfield on 8 February 1998. The Meeting agreed with this proposal.

6.3 1997 SOA Inter-Club competition

It was noted that FVO, who defeated the Club at Binning Wood on 5 October, eventually won this competition.

No word had been received on arrangements for the 1998 competition.

6.4 Breadalbane '97 - Day 3 - Leachdann Tom na Croich - 5 August

There had been no communication yet regarding the distribution of any funds from this event.

6.5 11-Person Relay - 21 September 1997

Steve noted that he had not yet received the entry fee contributions from the participants.

6.6 Scotlandsgaloppen 7 - 19 October 1997

This event took place, with about 400 competitors in all on the day. It was remarkable for the number of entries received by the stated closing date being exactly the same as the number of late entries. There was also a significant number of entries for the colour-coded courses. Paul reported a success in preparing the control card labels, using 'mailmerge'. A few loose ends remained to be tied up.

6.7 Lothian O-League - 1 March 1998

Robin Strain (ELO) had agreed to be the Controller. Paul had written to the five landowners, as well as Scottish Natural Heritage, and had received three replies so far. There was some discussion as to which landowner was responsible for which part of the area (with some positive outcome). Permission to use the usual car-parking field needed to be obtained from the tenant farmer. Barry offered to prepare a flier, which would be distributed at LOL-3 (N. Pentland Hills) and LOL-4 (Beecraigs). It was agreed to apply for event registration as soon as possible, especially to make sure that the event appeared in the "Score" fixture list.

ACTION: Barry, John

After the Meeting, a request had been received from EUOC to switch dates with their event, which was to have been held on 1 March 1998 at Corstorphine Hill, but for which they had been refused access permission. Pending final approval of this switch (by obtaining permission from the Archerfield landowners), it has been agreed that the events should be swapped. Accordingly, Lothian O-League 5 will now be staged by EUOC on 8 February 1998 at Corstorphine Hill, while Lothian O-League 6 will be organised by Interløpers on 1 March 1998 at Archerfield.

6.8 BOF Elite Championships 1999

Brian Bullen had enquired if the Club would be interested in bidding to stage the BOF Elite Championships in 1999. As Colin pointed out, this event would only involve planning four courses, catering for about 200 competitors, and thus would not necessarily require a huge army of helpers. It was expected that the Classic distance race would be held at Rannoch, but it wasn't clear where the Short race would take place (Drummond Hill had been suggested). It was agreed that the Club should try to stage this event, since it would clearly demonstrate the Club's commitment to putting on high quality events.

7 LBOA

The next meeting of this Committee would be held on Tuesday 25 November, at Robin Strain's house.

It was noted that Kirsteen Kershaw had agreed to act as Coordinator for the LBOA's Junior training programme, but that she would enlist the help of such as Colin E. to put on the actual training exercises. Because of the need to circulate Clubs asking for this help, and to try to gauge the numbers of Juniors who might be interested in the programme, it was accepted that no training events would be held until the New Year.

8 Newsletter

Colin I. was congratulated on the last issue. He hoped to produce another issue before Christmas, and so set a copy date of 10 December. This would include the usual piece regarding subscription renewal. John would provide address labels, as well as details of the 1998 fees.

ACTION: John

9 Juniors

It was noted that A. Squire, Esq., would become 21 during 1998.

Colin reported on an initiative from ESOC to try to employ a part-time Schools Liaison officer in the Edinburgh area. This would be as part of the programme agreed between the SOA and the Scottish Sports Council to try to develop interest in schools; if Clubs were prepared to devote some resources towards this programme, the SSC would match those resources. The plan was for the appointed person to spend four hours per week. ESOC had offered to share the Clubs' contribution (of £700) with Interløpers; however, there was some concern that there might be a certain amount of persuasion of any interested Juniors to join one or the other Club, and that therefore one Club's financial contribution might not bear much fruit. There was also concern about the implications of starting out on such a scheme; there would be the issue of arranging transport to events, and the level of commitment to the scheme required by sufficient members of the Club.

It was recognised that this issue needed to be discussed in a wider forum than simply this Committee. It might also prove valuable to obtain experiences of Clubs who have already taken part in such a scheme (such as MAROC and INVOC). Barry expressed interest in progressing the idea, and it was also suggested that the views of other Club members be sought through the medium of the Newsletter.

10 Socials

The Hallowe'en Party was duly held at Paul's house, and was agreed to be a great success. Paul is still suffering from the aftermath of having 10 under-5s invading his domain.

The Skittles night at the Sheep Heid was attended by 13 people, thus making it rather hard to form teams. However, all present thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Christmas party would indeed take place on Thursday 18 December, at the Riemersmas' residence.

11 A.O.B.

It was noted that the cost of the circuit training sessions at The Pleasance was actually £3.

There was some discussion on the e-mail distribution list set up by Paul. It was felt that it had already proved its usefulness within the Club.

The next Meeting was to have been held on Monday 26 January 1998.

However, the Chairman and Secretary both found subsequently that they were unable to be present on that date. Accordingly, the next Meeting will now be held on MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 1998 at 7.30pm at 3 Charlton Grove, Roslin.

The Meeting closed at 10.25pm. John Barrow (Hon. Secretary) – 2 December 1997